THE

Chriſtian Hiſtory;

Containing Accounts of the Propagation and Revival of Religion in *England Scotland* and *America*.

To be publiſh'd *Weekly*.

Saturday MARCH 26. 1743. Nº. 4.

Mr. ROBE's *Narrative continued*.

May 16th, I Preached as I had done for ſome Time paſt from *Gal.* iv. 19. In the forenoon I inſiſted upon a Uſe of Conſolation; and in the Afternoon preſſed all the unregenerate to ſeek to have Chriſt formed in them. An extraordinary Power of the Spirit from on High accompanied the Word preached. There was a great Mourning in the *Congregation* as for an only Son. Many cryed out; and theſe not only *Women*, but ſome ſtrong and ſtout hearted *young Men*, and ſome *betwixt forty and fifty*.

After the Diſmiſſion of the Congregation, an eſſay was made to get the diſtreſſed into my Barn, but it could not be done; the Number of them and of their Friends attending them were ſo many. I was obliged to convene them in the *Kirk*. I ſung a *Pſalm* and prayed with them; but when I eſſayed to ſpeak to them I could not be heard; ſuch were their bitter Crys, Groans, and the Voice of their Weeping.

After this I ordered, that they ſhould be brought unto me in my *Cloſet* one by one. I ſent alſo for the Rev. Mr. *John Oughterſon* Miniſter of the Goſpel at *Cumbernauld*, to aſſiſt me in dealing with the Diſtreſt that Evening, who readily came. In the mean Time I appointed *Pſalms* to be ſung with thoſe in the *Kirk*, and that the *Precentor* with *two or three of the Elders* ſhould pray with the Diſtreſs'd; which the Extraordinarineſs of this Event ſeemed to me to warrant. At the ſame Time

I diſcharged any to exhort or ſpeak to them in the Congregation; that I might cut off Occaſion of Calumny and Objection, from them who ſeemed to deſire it.

The Noiſe of the Diſtreſs'd was ſo great that it was heard from afar. It was pleaſant to hear thoſe who were in a State of *Enmity* with God. Deſpiſers of *JeſusChriſt*, andSatan's contented Slaves; ſome of them crying out for Mercy, ſome that they were loſt and undone,others, *What ſhall we do to be ſaved*; others praiſing God for this Day, and for awakening them; and others not only weeping and crying for themſelves, but for their graceleſs Relations. And yet it would have moved the hardeſt Heart that, as the Children of *Iſrael* under *Pharaoh's* Oppreſſion, when I ſpake unto many of them, they hearkned not, for Anguiſh of Spirit, and the Senſe of the cruel Bondage they were under.

There appeared about *thirty* awakened this Day, belonging to this and neighbouring Congregations. About *twenty* of them belonged to *thisPariſh*. Some few of thePariſh to *Campſie* and the Remainder to that of *Kirkintilloch*. But I have found ſince in converſing with the Diſtreſs'd, that the Number of the awaken'd far exceeds *thirty*.

Wedneſday 19*th*, We had Sermon for the firſt Time upon *a Week-day*. I preached as did alſo the Rev.Mr. *John Warden* Miniſter of the Goſpel at *Campſie*, and the Rev. Mr. *John Mc Laurin* Miniſter of the Goſpel at *Glaſgow*, who had come hither the Night before upon my Invitation. The Number of the awakened *this Day*, were *as many* as were upon the *Lord's-Day*. The greateſt Number was from the Pariſh of *Kirkintilloch*; there were alſo ſome from the Pariſhes of *Campſie* and*Cumbernauld*. The Number of the Awakened belonging to *this Pariſh* amounted this Week to *forty*.

May 20*th*, The Miniſter of *Kirkintilloch*, Mr. *Mc Laurin* and I preached at *Kirkintilloch*: There we ſaw *Zion's* mighty King appearing in his Glory and Majeſty, and his Arrows ſharp in the Hearts of his Enemies. Many were awakened there and brought under great ſpiritual Diſtreſs.

Having brought this *Narrative* to the firſt conſiderable and remarkable Out-pouring of the *Holy-Spirit* upon *this Corner*, before that I proceed to the intended Method of this *Narrative*,it will no doubt be ſatisfying to myReaders to know the Progreſs this bleſſed Work hath made, and the Number of the Awakened in the *ſeveral Pariſhes*, into which by the Lord's

Lord's Mercy it hath entred, as far as I am inform'd, or can upon ſome good Grounds gueſs.

There have been at leaſt *three Hundred* awakened in *this Pariſh*, ſince the Beginning of this Work; of which about *two Hundred* belong, or did belong to *this Pariſh*. There were indeed about *fourteen* or *fifteen* of them awakened when Mr. *Whitefield* preached at *Cumbernauld*. In the Pariſh of *Cumbernauld* neighbouring with this Pariſh *Southward*, as the Miniſter informs me, there are above *eighty*.

In the Pariſh of *Kirkintilloch* there are known to the Miniſter about an *hundred and twenty*, under a more than ordinary Concern about their Salvation, including the praying *young*, who are increaſed now to a greater Number, than formerly mentioned.

In the Pariſh of St. *Ninian's*, a Part whereof lies *Southward* from this Pariſh, the *Number* of the Awakened muſt be *conſiderable*. The firſt remarkable Appearance of this good Work there was at the giving the holy Supper, upon the *1ſt* of this current *Auguſt*. There were *ſeveral* awakened upon the *Saturday*, *many more* upon the *Lord's* Day, both in the *Kirk* during the Action Sermon and the Service, and alſo in the Congregation in the *Fields*. There were yet *a far greater Number* upon the *Monday*, which was one of the greateſt Days of the Mediator's Power I have hitherto ſeen. Many of the Awakened belong to *that Pariſh*, as alſo to the Pariſh of *Gargunnock*. By a Letter from the Rev. Mr. *James Mackie* Miniſter of the Goſpel in *that Pariſh*, I am informed, that the *Number* of the Awakened were *increaſed* upon the *Thurſday* thereafter when they had Sermon. He appoints Days for them to come to him for Inſtruction and Direction.

In the Pariſh of *Gargunnock* lying Weſt from the Pariſh of St. *Ninians*, there are, as I am well informed, near a *hundred* Perſons awakened. There were ſome of them firſt awakened at *Kilſyth* when the Lord's Supper was given upon the *ſecond Sabbath* of *July*; others at *Campſie* when it was given upon the *laſt Sabbath* of the ſaid Month; others at St. *Ninians* when that Sacrament was given upon the *firſt Sabbath* of *Auguſt*. Upon the *Thurſday* after, there were *eighteen* awakened in their own Congregation while the Rev. Mr. *John Warden*, their own aged and diligent Paſtor preached to them. There was alſo a conſiderable awakning the *Week* after, the Miniſter of *Campſie* his Son preaching there. The Miniſter of this Pariſh hath always had a ſingular Dexterity in inſtructing & dealing with the Conſciences

of the People under his Charge; and it is to be hoped that there will be a good Account of the Awakened in that Congregation, by the Lord's Bleſſing upon the Skill and Will he hath given his Servant to win them to *Jeſus Chriſt*.

In the Pariſh of *Calder*, according to the Information I have from their Miniſter there are above a *Hundred* awakened.

There are about the *ſame Number* in the Pariſh of *Campſie*.

The Caſe of the Pariſh of *Badarnock* lying *North* and *Weſt* from *Calder*, is of all others the moſt ſingular and noticeable. There were above *ninety* awakened Perſons in that Pariſh about the *ſixth* of *July* laſt. They have been for ſome Years paſt, and yet are without a Paſtor; their late Paſtor Mr. *Robert Wallace*, who deceaſed among them, had the Charge of their Souls above *fifty Years*: He was pious, faithful, diligent and dearly beloved by his People; and as I am informed there was no Perſon among them was carried away by the Seceſſion. The Lord hath honoured their School-Maſter *James Forſyth* to be greatly inſtrumental in this good Work among them. I ſhall give the following Extract from a Letter of his dated *Badarnock July* 17th, 1742, concerning the Impreſſions made upon, and the awakening of ſeveral of the *young Ones*; he writes. "Since the *firſt* of *February* laſt, I endeavoured to "inſtruct the *Children* under my Charge to the utmoſt of my "Power in the firſt Principles of Religion, and that they were "born in a State of Sin and Miſery, and Strangers to GOD by "Nature: I alſo preſſed them by all Arguments poſſible to "leave off their ſinful Ways, and to fly to JESUS CHRIST "by Faith and Repentance; which by the Bleſſing of GOD "hath not been in vain. Glory to his holy Name that backed "with the Power of his HOLY SPIRIT what was ſpoken in "much Weakneſs. I likewiſe warned them againſt the Com-"miſſion of any known Sin, and told them their Danger if "they perſiſted in the ſame, and that their Sins would find "them out. The which Exhortations frequently repeated, "yea almoſt every Day, came at laſt to have ſome Impreſſions "on their young Hearts. And I think the great Concern "that was at firſt among them was a Mean in GOD's Hand "to bring the *elder Sort* to a more ſerious Concern, and to "more Diligence in religious Duties; yea, I heard ſome "ſay, that they were aſhamed to hear and ſee *theſe young* "*Creatures* ſo much taken up about their Soul's Salvation. "That is ſome Account of the *Riſe* of this good and happy

"Work,

" Work. There was *one* of the *School-Boys* that went to *Cam-
" *buſlang* in *March*, who was firſt awakened: He after ſome
" few Days ſaid to me in the SCHOOL, *will you let, two or
" three of us meet together to ſing Pſalms and pray?* I ſaid, *I
" was very well pleaſed to hear that they inclined to ſuch a good
" Exerciſe:* So they joined themſelves together, and it hath
" had very good Fruit. For, *ſome few Days after*, there
" were *ſome of them* under Concern: and *that Day fourteen
" Days* they firſt met, there were *ten* or *twelve* awakened,
" and under deep Convictions; ſome *very young* of 8 and 9
" Years of Age, ſome 12 and 13. They ſtill inclined more
" and more to their Duty ſo that they meet three Times a Day,
" in the *Morning*, *Noon* and at *Night*. Alſo they have forſaken
" all their childiſh Fancies and Plays; ſo theſe that have been
" awakened are known by their Countenance and Converſa-
" tion, their Walk and Behaviour. The Work among the
" *young Ones* in the *School* ſtill increaſes, and there are ſtill
" ſome newly awakened. There were ſome, that by *a Word
" of Terror in their Leſſon*, were very diſtreſſed, and would
" cry out and weep bitterly. There are ſome of them very
" ſenſible of their Caſe, both of the Sin of their Nature, and
" their actual Tranſgreſſions, and even of the Sin of Unbelief:
" For when I would exhort any of them that were diſtreſs'd
" to believe in CHRIST, becauſe he is both able and willing
" to ſave to the uttermoſt; they replyed that they knew he
" was both able and willing; but they could not them-
" ſelves believe, unleſs GOD gave them a Heart ſo to do; for,
" they ſaid, they felt their Hearts ſo hard, that they could do
" nothing. This is the Account he gives of the *younger Sort*.
" -----As to the *elder Sort* he ſays, that the firſt among them
" were awakened at *Cumbuſlang*, others at *Calder* and *Kirkin-
" tilloch*; but that the greateſt Part have been awakened at
" *their Society Meetings*: they meet *twice a Week* for Prayer
" and Praiſe, where all the awakened in the Pariſh, with as
" many others as pleaſe to come, are admitted.".

There are alſo *ſeveral other little Meetings*, almoſt every Day, in different Places of the Pariſh: at *the ſecond* of theſe Meetings, there were *nine* awakened, at the *third* there were *four*, at another Meeting there were *five* or *ſix*. He ſays, that there is greater Diligence about the Concerns of Religion even among the Careleſs and Ignorant than ever was known before, and that the younger Sort are ſo taken with Religion

ligion that they eſteem it more than their neceſſary Food. There are ſeveral under deep Convictions who were formerly rude and profane.--- In another Letter dated *July* 6th 1742. He ſaith that this good Work ſtill continues among them, and that there are a *conſiderable Number* newly awakened in their Pariſh, *beſides Strangers* that come to their Meetings from other Pariſhes. There were *two young Women* in a neighbouring Pariſh who had been at *Cambuſlang* and brought back an evil Report of what they had been Witneſs to there; they ſaid they wondered what made the People cry out. Upon the 22d of *June* they came to one of theſe Meetings in *Badarnock*, as was ſuppoſed, with no good Deſign: they had not been above *three Quarters of an Hour* in the Meeting, when they were brought under Convictions, and continued in Diſtreſs the whole Time the Meeting laſted. He ſays there are a goodly Number of them who are come to Relief, which ſeems to be real from Scripture Marks and Evidences they give of it.

I have been more particular and large in this Article concerning *Badarnock*, (where the awaken'd are now *Aug.* 25th. about 100) that we who are Miniſters of the Goſpel may learn from this, not to be lifted up from any Succeſs we may have in our Miniſtrations: ſeeing that though the LORD maketh eſpecially the *Preaching* of the Word an effectual Means of convincing and converting Sinners, and of building up them that are converted; yet he alſo bleſſeth the *Reading* of the Word, *chriſtian Communion* and *religious Education* by Parents, School-maſters and others, for the foreſaid bleſſed Ends: And that he can and ſometimes doth make Uſe of weak and inconſiderable Inſtruments for beginning and carrying on a good Work upon the Souls of Men, while Men of great Gifts and even Godlineſs are not ſo ſucceſsful. This is the more to be regarded as the Doing of the LORD, that the People of *Badarnock* are not the leſs careful to attend upon publick Ordinances, neither is their Eſteem of them diminiſhed. Their Meetings do not interfere with the Diſpenſation of publick Ordinances in their own Congregation when they have it, nor with that in the neighbouring Congregations when they want it in their own. It is alſo hoped that the Reading of the foreſaid Article may excite *School-maſters* and *others* who have the Education of *Youth* to be diligent in inſtructing the *youngeſt of them* in the Principles of our holy Religion, and to endeavour daily to make Impreſſions upon their tender Minds of their ſinful and loſt State by *Nature*, and of their only Remedy by JESUS CHRIST. In

In the Pariſh of *Kilearn* lying about *ſeven Miles* to the North-weſt of *Campſie*, this good Work is alſo begun. Their Rev'd Miniſter Mr. *James Bain* hath been well affected to it from the Beginning, and was early Witneſs to it and aſſiſting to carry it on at *Cambuſlang*. There was a conſiderable Awakening in this Pariſh when the Lord's Supper was given there upon the 3d *Sabbath* of *July*; eſpecially upon the *Monday* when the Rev. Mr. *Michael Potter* Profeſſor of Divinity in the Univerſity at *Glaſgow*, and the Rev. Mr. *James Mackie* Miniſter of the Goſpel at St. *Ninians* preached.

In the Country *weſt* from *Glaſgow* there are very joyful Accounts of the Entrance and Progreſs of this bleſſed Work there. In the Town of *Irvine* there were *a few* awakened firſt at *Cambuſlang*; but now there are *a good many* awakened that never were at *Cambuſlang*, and are in very great Diſtreſs and Anguiſh of Soul, like thoſe at *Cambuſlang* and in this Country. They are happy under the Inſpection and Care of their worthy Miniſter the Rev. Mr. *William M'Knight*. In the Pariſh of *Long Dreghorn* and *other Pariſhes* about, there are *ſeveral* awakened. In the Town of *Kilmarnock* there were about *fifty* from that Place awakened at *Cambuſlang*; but there have been *many more* ſince in their own Congregations. This bleſſed Work hath made leſs Progreſs to the Eaſtward of *Kilſyth*; the People being much diſtracted and divided by the Influence of the Seceders, and even furiouſly prejudiced againſt the Diſpenſation of Ordinances in this Church, yet bleſſed be the LORD it extends even to theſe Congregations. In the Pariſh of *Denny* there are *ſeveral*, ſome of whom have been awakened in their own Church. There are *ſeveral* in the united Pariſhes of *Dunipace* and *Larbert*, ſome of whom have been awakened likewiſe there. In the Pariſh of *Torphican* South from *Linlithgow* there were *ſeven* awakened when the Lord's Supper was given there upon the *firſt Sabbath* of *Auguſt*.

Tho' I am perſwaded, a particular Account will be given to the Publick of the memorable Communion at *Cambuſlang* laſt *Lord's Day*, being the 15th of this Current *Auguſt* 1742; yet I cannot but here inſert, That I obſerved much of the *Lord*'s Preſence with Miniſters, and among the vaſt Multitude of People there. There were *many* unconverted Sinners awakened, and *ſeveral* had the Love of GOD ſhed abroad in their Hearts by the HOLY-GHOST given to them, to ſuch a Meaſure, as they were nigh overwhelmed therewith. Particularly while they

they were hearing early upon *Monday* Morning a Sermon preached by the Rev'd Mr. *Alexander Webſter* Miniſter of the Goſpel at *Edinburgh*. One of them was a *young Woman* from the Pariſh of *Kilſyth*. She was brought to me at my firſt alighting at *Cambuſlang* after the foreſaid Sermon. She was ſo filled with a Senſe of the Love of GOD to her Soul and with Love to JESUS CHRIST, that ſhe was all in Tears and could not contain herſelf. She had been awakened at *Kilſyth* about the Beginning of *July*, but had attained to no ſenſible Relief until the hearing of the foreſaid Sermon. Before her Awakening ſhe was of a blameleſs Life, and every Way hopeful. Her Convictions were kindly, and had a moſt deſireable Progreſs. I called for her *yeſterday*, and ſhe gave me a ſatisfying Account of her cloſing with CHRIST in all his Offices, and of her Attainments during the foreſaid Sermon, accompanied with ſuch Exerciſe of Soul, as we uſe warrantably to give from the holy Scriptures as Evidences of that which comes from GOD in a ſaving Manner upon the Souls of his People.

Having thus *narrated* what I have learned concerning the *Progreſs* and *Extent* of this good Work ſince it began here; I ſhall for the greater Diſtinctneſs divide *the Subject* of *this Narrative* into the *following* ARTICLES.

ARTICLE I.

Concerning the Method *I have obſerved in carrying on this Work.*

THough I am far from thinking the *Way I have uſed* to be the very beſt, and from propoſing it as a Rule to any; ſeeing that by Experience I have found out ſome Miſtakes in my Management, which I afterwards rectified, and others poſſibly in peruſing this may obſerve more: yet the Succeſs I had therein, and the Hope that it may be uſeful at leaſt to ſome of my Brethren of the younger Sort, when they ſhall be called, as I pray they may be ſoon to this pleaſant Service; induceth me to give the Subject of *this Article*.

(To be continued.)

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